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DEADPOOL

OCT
#9

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KELLY
MCGUINNESS
DENTON
MASSENGILL

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING --

-- COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

DEATHTRAP!™

DIRECT EDITION

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$1.99 US $2.80 CAN

A ROW HOUSE, ON A SUN-BLEACHED STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA...

...WHERE SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE.

I'M *NOT* MAD. I'M *NOT*.

HE MOVES THINGS ALL THE TIME. *FUNNY*. Ha Ha. REDECORATE ON THE OLD *BLIND* BROAD. TEE-HEE.

GOTTA BE A *JOKE*, A *PRANK*, A *GOOF*...

...BUT THIS *AIN'T COMEDY*.

NOT THE LADDER *HERE*...

...LEADING UP TO... *THERE*.

GOTTA BE A JOKE, GOD... LET IT BE A REALLY *BAD JOKE*...

...*WADE?*

CREEAK

YOU'RE UP. MORNING, GERITOL GIRL.

WHAT'S SHAKIN'? 'SIDES YOUR *TURKEY ARMS*, THAT IS?

WADE, WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?*

NUTHIN' *MUCH.* JUST GETTIN' IN SOME EARLY MORNING *MEDITATION* BEFORE THE ROUGH STUFF BEGINS.

BETTER THAN THAT TRIPLE-DOUBLE *MOCHACHINNO JUNK* WITH EXTRA *WUSS-CREAM* THAT THE *YUPPIES* INHALE —

MEDITATION? IN *THERE?*

SURE! IT'S QUIET, *DARK... WOMB-LIKE,* EVEN. IDEAL FOR THE *EXPANSION* OF ONE'S *MIND* AND *SPIRIT...*

...AND IF YOU *TWIST* AROUND JUST RIGHT, YOU CAN LOOK OUT THROUGH THE *AIR HOLES* AND SEE CHICKS SUNBATHING.

OH.

SO WHAT'S FOR *BREAKFAST?* MOST *IMPORTANT* MEAL OF THE DAY, AND I'M STARVIN' LIKE *MARVIN* THE MARTIAN!

"WHERE IS THE EARTH-SHATTERING KA-BOOM?" THAT LITTLE TROJAN *SLAYS* ME...

WADE? IS EVERYTHING *ALRIGHT? COPACETIC,* I MEAN?

RIGHT AS THE *PAIN* OF CRASHING A *PLANE* IN *SPAIN.*

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH THAT *TYPHOID BROAD?*

...

...WELL... I GUESS ONE *COULD* PUT IT THAT WAY, IF ONE HAD A *LIMITED VOCABULARY.* WE'LL DISCUSS IT OVER *HIGH TEA* SOMETIME...

...BUT FOR NOW MENTION HER *NAME* AROUND ME AGAIN AND EXPECT *BAD THINGS.*

PLEASE, WADE... DON'T LET IT *START AGAIN...*

...PLEASE STAY OUT OF THE *BOX.*

ENOUGH YAPPIN'. LET'S EAT! *DEUCE!* HERE, BOY! I HID SOME MILK BONES IN AL'S *SOCK DRAWER...*

LATER. A PLACE WHERE THE BAD AND THE UGLY EVICTED THE GOOD A LONG TIME AGO...

AWRIGHT, THIS IS STUPID! YER PULLIN' MY STUMP!

NO WAY, *PATCH!* AT A CERTAIN TIME OF DAY, THE *FILTH* ON THIS WALL BEARS A *STRIKING* RESEMBLANCE TO THE ONE, THE ONLY... MISS *LIZA MINNELLI!*

WE KNEW YOU'D WANT *BOX SEATS*, BOSS.

WE'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR NEARLY A *HALF-HOUR* AN' ALL I SEE IS A COUPLE A *STRESS FRACTURES*, MAGGOTS, AND *RAT TURDS!*

NOW I'M AS BIG A *MINNELLI* FAN AS DEY COME, *CF*, DA BIGGEST --

-- GOT *FIFTEEN* VERSIONS OF *"CLANG CLANG CLANG"* IN MY *CAR* ALONE --

-- BUT COME *ON!* WHEN'S THIS BLESSED EVENT S'POSED T' *HAPPEN?*

Um... LET'S WATCH FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER... Uh, *FIVE* MINUTES. RIGHT, *FENWAY?*

THE *UMP* NEEDS AT LEAST *TEN* --

HEY... JUST WHAT ARE YOU *MOOKS* UP TO, ANYHOW?

NOTHING, PATCH! Heh... WE JUST WANTED YOU TO SEE THE TABLEAU... Y' KNOW... SOMEWHERE OVER THE *RAINB* --

KNUCKLE

KSSSSH

OOOOWW!

-- ELVIS' GLITTERY JOCKSTRAP!

KNUCKLE

KRASSH

WHAT IN *TARNATION'S* GOIN' ON IN THERE?! I SWEAR, IF DIS IS SOME SORTA *SET-UP* --

SET-UP? *US?!* NO! NEVER! Oh BOY...

KNUCKLE

-*SIGH*- LIZA MINNELLI... SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM IT WAS *SHOELESS JOE* IN *HEELS*. LET'S GET BACK TO THE *DUGOUT*.

SSSHHHHHHHH!

OR HEROES REBURNED

DOES *EEEVERYBODY* HAVE THEIR THINKING CAPS STRAPPED UP *TIGHT?* SUPER.

NOW, I'M GONNA ASK THIS *ONE MORE* TIME...

...WHO *STILL* THINKS THAT *ELMER'S GLUE*-LOOKIN', *STANK* BREATH-HAVIN', POSTER-CHILD FOR *EUTHANASIA, T-RAY* STILL *RUNS* THIS JOINT?!?

JOE KELLY
BITEPLATE
ED McGUINNESS
GINGIVITIS
SHANNON DENTON
FIXODENT
NATHAN MASSENGILL
NIGHT RETAINER
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/AD
TEAM COLGATE
CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
WHITENING AGENT
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
TARTER CONTROL
MATT IDELSON
JANE'S UVULA
BOB HARRAS
CAVITY CREEP

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CRICKET... CRICKET.

GEE, FUNNY HOW *TOUGH* IT IS TO RIP ON YER OL' BUDDY *'POOL* WHEN YOUR *TONGUE'S* BEEN YANKED OUTTA YER *YAP!*

HAVE I DONE ANYTHING TO HELP YOU *FORGET* T-RAY'S LITTLE *"ACCIDENT"* FROM LAST WEEK?

Y-YES, *D-DEADPOOL...*

...W-WE NEVER REALLY BOUGHT THAT HE WAS A *TOUGH* N-NUT. HE'S A *S-SUCKER* --

QUIET, *PLEEB...*

...IT'S NOT *POLITE* TO SPEAK ABOUT THE *DEAD* LIKE THAT.

'CAUSE BELIEVE *ME*... WHEN I *FINISH* WITH *T-RAY*, THEY'RE GONNA BURY HIM IN A *PETRIE DISH.*

SCHRIPP

MOTHER A' MERCY! WHAT IN THE FIRE PITS *O'HAVANA HAPPENED* IN HERE?

PATCH! MAN YOU'RE SO *LUCKY* I GOT HERE WHEN I DID!

I NARROWLY AVERTED A *MASSACRE* IN HELLHOUSE...

...AND HERE'S THE *FILTHY* CULPRIT!

BANANA PEEL?

IT WAS *HORRIBLE!* THOSE *CARTOONS* WERE *RIGHT.* ONE ERRANT PEEL WIPED OUT A WHOLE *BANANA BOATFUL* OF MERCS!

OH, THE *AWFUL* HUMANITY... *HOLD* ME? I *TREMBLE...*

AA-GGH

HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED THIS *GREAT MOMENT* IN *RHINOPLASTY...* COME AGAIN!

SOMEBODY CALL DA PLUMBER! WILSON'S MOUTH IS BACKING UP AGAIN AN' GETTING ALL OVER MY NEW SHOES!

NO, I *SWEAR!* IT'S A *RADIOACTIVE* BANANA PEEL WITH *POWERS* AND *ABILITIES* THAT SET IT FAR *APART* FROM *NORMAL* PRODUCE...

DA RULES IS, *NO FIGHTIN' IN HELLHOUSE!*

BUT IN *THIS* CASE, THOSE BOYZ HADDA LEARN A LESSON IN *ETIQUETTE*, SO I'LL MAKE AN *EXCEPTION!*

YOU JUST BETTER GET A *BIGGER BANANA* WHEN IT'S TIME T' TAKE ON *T-RAY!*

HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU YOU'RE *BEAUTIFUL* WHEN YOU GIVE ME *SPECIAL* TREATMENT? CAN I MAKE YOU A *FRIENDSHIP PIN?*

SHADDAP, YA TWO-BIT *PUNK!*

SIR! YES, SIR, YOU *"TIME BANDIT" STAND-IN,* SIR!

WHEW! SURE GLAD THAT *DISTASTEFUL* BIT OF *DISCIPLINING* IS OVER AND DONE. WHAT'S LEFT ON THE OL' *TO DO LIST...*

...PUNISH HELLHOUSE *CHUMPS* FOR LETTING *ALBINO MISFIT* BURN MY *HEAD...* CHECK!

DROP OFF AL'S UNDIES TO GET *STARCHED,* PICK UP TRICK *TOILET SEAT...* *DOUBLE* CHECK!

OH, YEAH — GET *LEGIT* JOB TO PROVE *SELF-WORTH...* RIGHT.

I NEED *WORK,* PATCH, BUT NOT THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL *ASSASSINATION,* EXTORTION, AND KIDNAPPING GIGS... I NEED A CHANGE OF *PACE...*

...HEROIC WORK FOR SOMEONE OF MY PURE *HEART* AND *ALTRUISTIC* NATURE!

GEEZ, 'POOL, YOU *OKAY?* YOU AIN'T BEEN EXPERIMENTING WIT' *POP ROCKS* AN' *MOUNTAIN DEW* AGAIN, HAVE YOU?

NO, GOOD CITIZEN!

SO YOU WANT SOMETHING OUT OF THE *MORALLY ADMIRABLE-GIGS* FILE, eh?

YOU DO REALIZE THAT MOST OF THE TIME, DAT'S PRO BONO WORK... THEY DON'T PAY *SQUAT...*

I'M... I'M... N-NOT IN IT ≥KAK≤ FOR THE M-M-M ≥KAK≤ M-M-MONEY!

THERE... THAT WASN'T SO *HARD*... JUST DON'T MAKE ME DO IT AGAIN, OR I'M GONNA *BARF* UP A *LUNG*.

HEY, SPORT... WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF *UNIFORM*? *DRAFTED*?

YEAH... YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY A *BOY SCOUT*, 'POOL.

TRUE... THOUGH I DID MAKE IT ONE *CROCHETING BADGE* SHY OF *WEBLOS*...

IT'S JUST SOMETHING I GOTTA *DO*... T'PROVE A CERTAIN *SHOCK THERAPY CANDIDATE* WRONG.

OKAY, WHY ASK *WHY*... MAYBE I GOT SOMETHING A LEADING-MAN TYPE LIKE YERSELF MIGHT FIND *INTERESTIN'*.

LET'S JUST OPEN 'ER UP...

HERO GIGS

SQUEE SQUEE

SQUEE SQUEE

Uh... heh... GUESS I HAVEN'T UPDATED THE OL' HERO FILE IN A WHILE...

NOT MUCH *NEED* THIS YEAR, AFTER *ONSLAUGHT* AND ALL... A LOT *LESS* HEROES. Y'UNDERSTAND, *RIGHT*, 'POOL?

SURE... I GET IT...

HERE I AM, READY TO TURN OVER A NEW *LEAF*, AN' SOMEONE GOES AND CHOPS DOWN THE *TREE*.

EXCUSE ME... I'M IN NEED OF A MERCENARY... I NEED HELP.

SPECIAL OFFER! A NO-PRIZE TO WHOMEVER CAN MAKE ONSLAUGHT SEEM FUNNY -- Marketing Matt

WHOA... GET A LOAD OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS DEVOTEE...

DARK TIMES HAVE SPREAD ACROSS MY LAND...

I BET ALL THE OUTHOUSES ARE ALL BACKED UP, TOO...

=>SNICKER<=

SHHH!

A *MALEVOLENT* FORCE HAS BREACHED OUR CASTLE WALLS, AND *ABSCONDED* WITH OUR ROYAL HIGHNESS...

THE PRINCESS.

AN *ABSCONDAL!* IT'S IN ALL THE *TABLOIDS*...

=>TEE HEE<=

=>SNORT<=

'POOL, STOP... HE'S GONNA HEAR...

I HAVE TRAVELLED FAR, SEEKING THE *DIAMOND* IN THE ROUGH...

THE CARAT SHOP'S DOWN THE BLOCK...

=>CHORTLE<=

HAW HAWHA

=>SNARF<=

A MAN WITH *FORTITUDE* OF *SPIRIT*, AND THE *CUNNING* OF AN *ANIMAL*, TO BREACH THE DEMON'S *VILE* LAIR, AND RESCUE OUR BELOVED PRINCESS...

... CAN ANY OF YOU ANSWER OUR *PRAYERS?*

AHAHAHA

"OH, GLORIOUS DAY... ALL YOU NEED DO IS STEP OUTSIDE, SON... OUR MOUNT AWAITS."

A SHORT HOP LATER ACROSS THE FRIENDLY SKIES...

VANQUISHING... YEAH, THAT'S WHERE I WANNA FOCUS RIGHT NOW... VANQUISHING EVIL...

IT'S ALL PART OF MY TWELVE STEP PLAN TO A BETTER ME.

SO YOU'VE SAID...

YEAH, Y'KNOW... IT'S ALL THIS FREAKIN' GOOD IN ME, DYIN' TO GET OUT AND SPLAT ALL OVER SOMEONE.

LIKE A GIANT FESTERING PUSTULE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF MY NOSE, AND I GOT BOTH HANDS READY TO SQUEEZE, BABY --

MISTER DEADPOOL!

DO YOU ALWAYS DRONE ON AND ON THIS WAY?

SOMETIMES. DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH SODA I DRINK BEFORE BEDTIME, OR WHETHER OR NOT OTHERS ARE TRYING TO CONCENTRATE...

WHY, AM I BOTHERING YOU?

IMMENSELY.

Y'KNOW, FOR AN *OBI WAN* TYPE... YOU'RE NOT ESPECIALLY *WARM* AND *FUZZY*.

YOU'RE MORE *MICHAEL CAINE-ESQUE*... LIKE IN *JAWS: THE REVENGE*, A *FINE PICTURE* I MIGHT ADD.

SO WHAT'S *WRONG*? SOMEONE PLAY *"HIDE THE LIGHT SABER"* AND FORGET TO TELL YOU?

NO. I'M *NOT* ESPECIALLY *"WARM"* NOR *"FUZZY,"* MISTER DEADPOOL...

CLICK

... BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN A LITTLE *GRAVITAS* BEFORE I TAKE A *LIFE*.

UH.

WHOMP

SAN FRAN.

SCHCHH

THE BOX.

=UNGHH= THAT WHAT IT'S =HRRFF= CALLED.

I DON'T WANNA =HNG= *TALK* ABOUT WHAT *HAPPENS* IN THERE...

MAYBE WHEN WE KNOW EACH OTHER *BETTER*, BUT PROB'LY *NOT*.

POINT IS, IF WADE WAS IN *THERE*...

WMOOF!

Uh... AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?

JUST SOME *PRO-ACTIVE REDECORATING.* DIDN'T HEAR YOU *'PORT* IN. HOW YOU DOIN', *WEASEL?*

PEACHY... IS Uh... EVERYTHING *ALL RIGHT?* I CAME IN AFTER THE CREDITS.

IF ALL RIGHT IS *SAN FRANCISCO...* WE'RE ON *PLUTO.* THANKS FOR *ASKING.*

LUNCH. *GREAT.* LIKE I HAVE *ANY* APPETITE LEFT.

AL, WHAT'S *WRONG?*

I PICKED THE *WORST* OF ALL POSSIBLE DAYS TO GET DEADPOOL *BACK* FOR *STICKING* ME WITH THIS *STUPID DOG.*

PIZZ

...SOMETHING VERY BAD HAPPENED, AND WE'RE *ALL* GONNA BE *HIP DEEP* IN IT.

CLANG

"WHY? WHAT DID YOU DO?"

OH BEEERAUUUTIFUL WITH SHAAAKES AND FRIES...

WITH CHEEZBURGERS AND PLAIIIN...

WITH GRIII-MACE AND MAY-YOOOOR McCHEEZEE...

"MY FELLOW *AMERICANS...* "

I HEREBY DECLARE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY *BIG MACS* AND *FLAPJACKS* --

-- THAT *APRIL FIRST* BE KNOWN FOREVERMORE AS...

POOL IS COOL!

... *DEADPOOL DAY!*

AWW, THANKS, *BILLY-BOB*...

... HEY, SOMEBODY PULL MY *FINGER*... COME ON...

STOP THE PRESSES!! I HAVE NO *PANTS!*

AS OUR NATIONAL MODEL OF *HEROISM*, DEADPOOL, YOU DO SWEAR TO *UPHOLD* THE LAW, PROTECT THE *INNOCENT* --

-- AND HELP COMELY *LIFEGUARDS* PRACTICE *CPR* ON BAYWATCH!

IT'S AN *HONOR* TO SERVE MY COUNTRY, SIR! PUT 'ER THERE, *PAL!*

FLASH

MY REHABILITATION HAS BEEN *SHOCKING*, HASN'T IT, *FOLKS?*

NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT NAMING THAT *REST STOP* AFTER ME --

IRONIC, SINCE YOU'LL BE GETTING NO *REST*, BABY...

YOU?!? NO!

FOR PEOPLE LIKE US, BEING *BAD* IS A *FULL-* [redacted] OCCUPATION, BABY. NO *SLEEP* FOR THE *WICKED*...

OW! MARY, STOP!

SSSSHH

... BESIDES... *GOOD'S* NOT YOUR *COLOR*...

... *BLOOD* IS, BABY.

FWOOSH

NO... I'M NOT... NOT LIKE YOU... ROSEBUD...

...I'M A *HERO*... I'M...

THEN AGAIN...

...I'VE ALWAYS DEPENDED ON THE *KINDNESS* OF *STRANGULATION*.

LET'S *MURDER* SOMETHIN'.

NO!

baby

UM...

...DID SOMEONE FORGET TO FLIP OFF THE *DREAM SEQUENCE* SWITCH?

NO, Mr. DEADPOOL, YOU ARE VERY MUCH *AWAKE*... ALL TOO *VULNERABLE*...

... AND LOCKED IN THE CLUTCHES OF ...

DEATHTRAP!

PLAY STOP VOLUME

Miss Megaphone

ETCETERAS. INSERT *MANIACAL LAUGHTER* HERE.

NORMALLY I'D GIVE YOU THE WHOLE *STURM UND DRANG* --

-- BUT I'D RATHER CUT TO THE *GOOD* PART, SINCE YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A *PLAYER.*

PROFESSIONAL COURTESY.

MAN... EVEN *SUPER-VILLAINS* BLOW ME OFF NOW... WHATTA *GYP.*

AM I WEARING A *BONNET?*

OH, COME NOW, DON'T GET *SNITTY*, DEADPOOL. YOU'RE JUST DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE'S NO [redacted] TO SAVE —

THERE ISN'T? YOU MEAN I WASN'T SOME CHOSEN *SAVIOR*, AND YOU'RE NOT AN EVIL *MINION* TRYING TO KEEP ME FROM MY QUEST?

BY THE WAY, THIS AIN'T A *BIB*, IS IT? IT'S A *TIE*, RIGHT?

WHEN [redacted] CHOSE YOU, I HAD NO *IDEA* JUST HOW *CORRUPTED* YOUR MIND WAS. YOUR LAST MOMENTS SHOULD BE RATHER *PIQUANT.*

"LAST MOMENTS." RIGHT. CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE... ALMOST AS OFTEN AS "ITCHING IS PART OF THE FUN..."

...WHAT'S YOUR GRIPE WITH ME, ANYWAY? I WHACK YOUR DOG OR SOMETHING?

OH, AND WHY AM I DRESSED LIKE A CUPIE DOLL?

I HARBOR NO UMBRAGE AGAINST YOU AT ALL, BUT BUSINESS HAS BEEN SLOW LATELY, SO I THOUGHT I'D TEST SOME NEW EQUIPMENT.

UPON VIEWING YOUR PERFORMANCE AT THE HELLHOUSE, I CHOSE YOU TO ASSIST ME BECAUSE YOU ARE, IN SHORT AN ARTISTE, WHO SPECIALIZES IN PAIN.

I RESPECT THAT. YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL PROVE INVALUABLE.

I'LL ADDRESS YOUR WARDROBE SHORTLY.

IF YOU ENJOYED THE LITTLE NUMBER AT THE HELLHOUSE, YOU'LL LOVE THE PIECE I'M PLANNING FOR YOU...

...IT'S CALLED "EAT YOUR OWN DUODENUM." VERY CHI-CHI.

SO, WHAT'RE YOU, SOME KINDA SOUPED-UP HITTER? HOW COME I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU BEFORE?

QUITE SIMPLY, BECAUSE I WORK IN SOCIAL CIRCLES YOUR BARGAIN-BASEMENT MIND CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO FATHOM.

I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR NEARLY THREE THOUSAND PREMATURE LIQUIDATIONS, VERSED IN ALL FORMS OF TORTURE, AND HOLD THREE DOCTORATES FROM OXFORD.

WELL, I GOTTA SENTINELS OF JUSTICE DECODER RING... WHUPTIE-DO.

I DISCOVERED THAT KILLING WITH THE USUAL IMPLEMENTS WAS... BORING. THERE WAS NO ART IN IT.

GIVE ME TWO MINUTES ALONE WITH YOU AND AN EPILADY, AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE MONA FREAKIN' LISA.

IT BECAME MY MISSION TO ELEVATE DEATH INTO AN ART FORM.

ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE...

PLAY 5

IF YOU HAVE A RAFI TAPE IN THERE, SOMEONES GONNA BLEED.

ORIGINALLY, I WAS GOING TO RUN YOU THROUGH A *GAUNTLET* THE *MARQUIS DE SADE* WOULD ENVY —

— THE GOAL BEING TO "*SAVE THE PRINCESS*" IN ORDER TO PLAY OUT YOUR *HERO COMPLEX*...

... BUT YOU'VE *INSPIRED* ME TO NEW HEIGHTS...

I'M GONNA *INSPIRE* YOU A NEW *PIE HOLE* IN ABOUT TEN SEC--

WRONK

"_.. I REALIZED THAT IT WOULD ■ A *GREATER* CHALLENGE USING YOUR INHERENT *PROCLIVITIES* AGAINST YOU.

"I CHOSE A *PRE-SCHOOLER MOTIF* TO MIRROR YOUR *UNDEVELOPED* PSYCHE...

"... AND PLACED THE VERY *KEY* TO YOUR SURVIVAL IN THE PALM OF YOUR *HAND*...

IT'LL LOOK GREAT THERE... RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR *HEART* --

SSK

"... OR RATHER YOUR OWN *MOUTH*. THE BEAR WILL *STAY* AS IT IS *INDEFINITELY*...

"... BUT EVERY TIME YOU *SPEAK*, IT WILL *DESCEND*... ONE GRAVID *FOOT* AT A TIME... "

... UNTIL YOU ARE FINALLY *SILENCED* AS THREE TONS OF *WINSOME PLAYTHING* SUFFOCATE YOU.

I TAKE IT YOU GRASP THE CONCEPT OF *IRONY*... DON'T YOU?

I DIDN'T TAKE MY *VITAMINS* TODAY... I'M A LITTLE LOW ON *IRON*.

WRONK

UH... JUST HOW LONG IS THIS SUPPOSED T' TAKE, *CHIEF?*

I'M GONNA DIE OF *OLD AGE* HERE BEFORE I GET *SMOOSHED* TO DEATH...

... IF YOU PERFORM AS *EXPECTED*... ABOUT *TWENTY MINUTES*, GIVE OR TAKE THE OCCASIONAL *PLEA* TO A HIGHER POWER.

TWENTY MINUTES, HUH? GEE... SOMEHOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT MY *LAST MOMENTS* WOULD ONLY TAKE A *COUPLE OF SECONDS*...

FASCINATING. EVEN THOUGH YOU WILL SURELY *DIE*, YOU *CONTINUE* TO BLATHER ON.

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM A DELUSION OF *INDESTRUCTIBILITY*, OR ARE YOU TRULY JUST A *CRETIN?*

I'M A LITTLE BIT *COUNTRY*, AND A LITTLE BIT *WEST COAST RAP*... TWO GREAT *TASTES*, YADDA YADDA...

... FACT IS, I AIN'T *SHUTTIN' UP* FER *NO ONE!* SO IF THIS *IS* HOW I'M GONNA GO OUT, I'M GONNA SAY EVERYTHING I *NEVER* GOT TO SAY...

... YO MAMA SO *FAT*, SHE SAT ON A *DOLLAR BILL* AND *FOUR QUARTERS* CAME OUT!

BEEN SAVING THAT ONE SINCE *FIFTH GRADE*...

...I DIDN'T *CARE* WHO SHOT J.R.! I *KNOW* WHERE THE *BEEF* IS! I PUT THE *BOMP* IN THE BOMP-DA-BOMP-DA-BOMP!

QUARTERS... Heh.

WRONK

WHAT'S THE POINT OF A *BIDET?* I MEAN, IF ONE CAN MASTER THE *INTRICACIES* OF *TOILET PAPER*, ONE SHOULDN'T MESS WITH *INDOOR PLUMBING!*

BUT WAIT! THERE'S %@$* *MORE!*

MTV SHOULD - NGHH - START SHOWING - HRFF - VIDEOS AGAIN! AND BRING BACK - HNNG - MARTHA QUINN!

SOAP - HURRF - STARS ARE NOT AUTHORS, BUT JACK PALANCE - HNNGH - IS A GREAT *@*& POET!

"YOU KNOW HOW WE PLAY OUR LITTLE CAT AND MOUSE ROUTINE?"

RATTLE-RATTLE STRAIN

WELL, THIS WAS JUST A SMALL GAG... NOTHING MAJOR...

...MAYBE A LITTLE MAJOR...

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW, DO I?

WHOOK

REMARKABLE... HE'S REALLY GOING TO DO IT! HE'S GOING TO TALK HIMSELF TO DEATH!

NEVER DID I EXPECT SUCH AN EXQUISITE PIECE OF WORK...

FAT ALBERT'S FRIEND, WEIRD - UNGH - HAROLD! WHAT WAS THAT PINK THING ON...

NNGH

...HIS...

...HEAD

ARRGH!

OUCH!

WELL... YOU KNOW THOSE... WEAPON THINGIES HE'S ALWAYS GOT WITH HIM?

AHH-HAAA!
NOW YOU'LL SEE WHY I'VE BEEN *BLATHERING* ON ALL THIS TIME, *CHUMP!*
I'M NOT SOME *PSYCHO-SISSY* WITH A *DEATH FETISH* LIKE *SOME* HOODED CLOWN I KNOW!
THAT WAS ALL JUST *T' DISTRACT* YA, WHILE I *BROKE* MY OWN FREAKIN' *WRIST*...
YOU REALLY *DID*, DIDN'T YOU? HOW DID IT *FEEL?*
...HEY, I LISTENED *QUIETLY* WHILE *YOU* EXPLAINED *YOUR* MASTER PLAN; NOW SHUT UP WHEN IT'S *MY* TURN.
OF COURSE. MEA CULPA. *GO ON.*
BROKE MY OWN FRIGGIN' *WRIST* TO SLIP OUT OF MY *RESTRAINTS* AND DO *THIS!*
CHUNK!
EVEN *WITH* THREE BROKEN *METACARPALS,* I CAN PULL THE TRIGGER LONG ENOUGH T' FILL THE *BEAR* FULLA *HOLES*...
AH-HA!
AH-HA!
...AN' LET THE *STUFFING* BOUNCE HARMLESSLY TO THE *GROUND!*
DIE, TEDDY RUXPIN!
DEE!
FONK
THANKS FOR THE DOG-ERK! ♡ AL.
O SHIP.

YOU DID NOT... Oh — -- I WOULD GIVE UP THE *SPICE CHANNEL* FOR A *MONTH* TO SEE HIS FACE --

WELL... HEH HEH... IF YOU LIKED *THAT* ONE... THE NEXT ONE'S A *DOOSY.*

OKAY, SO *PLAN A* IS A *WASH*...

...*PLAN B* IS WHERE I JUST *TELEPORT* OUT LIKE A *COWARD* --

TEK TEK

OH, NO! THE *BATTERIES* ARE GONE! THAT *&#@%HAG!*

AAAAAL!

Oh MY — *HA HA* — STOP IT. PLEASE! YOU'RE *KILLING* ME... THIS IS TOO *PRECIOUS!*

FINE... THEN IT'LL BE *WINNIE THE FILLET,* THEN!

EAT *BLADE,* GENTLE B --

CLINK

ALFRED.

I FIGURE, *WORST* CASE SCENARIO, HE *BUYS* IT, BUT THEN I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING ME *BACK.*

HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT THIS IS NOT A *HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP?*

WHAT ARE YOU, *OPRAH?* MIND YER *BUSINESS.*

GO ON! DO SOMETHING *ELSE!* I HAVEN'T LAUGHED THIS HARD IN *MONTHS!*

BETTER YET, I OFFER YOU A *BARGAIN*. *SAVE* YOUR BREATH, STOP *JABBERING* FOR JUST *ONE* MINUTE...

... AND I'LL SET YOU FREE AS A SHOW OF GRATITUDE.

PERHAPS THEN YOU'LL SHARE MORE OF THOSE *ENCHANTING* "*MAMA JOKES*".

I WILL STOP NO *RHYME* BEFORE IT'S *TIME*, SO BITE ME, BINKY.

SIGH WHICH BRINGS US TO PLAN F... AND YOU KNOW WHAT F STANDS FOR...

AND THIS WAS MY FAVORITE SET OF *LIMBS*, TOO...

KCH

SCHKP

FLIPPIN FRASSIN @&#$ ROBBA GOBBLA @*@$ RIKUM FRAKUM &$#@ RUSH [illegible]GH *@#$&)

THE BEAR IS DESCENDING TOO *RAPIDLY*... SOMETHING ABOUT THE *TENOR* OF HIS VOICE IS SHORTENING THE *COMPUTER*...

MY DEVICE WON'T SIMPLY *SUFFOCATE* HIM...

"TEDDY'S ACHIEVED *RAMMING SPEED!*"

SORRY ABOUT THE *PORRIDGE*... I'LL PAY YOU *BACK*...

KRASH!

SOUND OF TIBIA TEARING THROUGH FLESH. TOO GRAPHIC FOR YOUNGER READERS.

IN MY DAYS OF *KILLING*... I'VE SEEN PEOPLE *GNAW* THEIR OWN LEGS TO *ESCAPE* A TRAP...

... SELL THEIR *SPOUSES*...

... *DISEMBOWEL* THEIR UNCLES...

... BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN, WHO UTTERLY *REFUSED* TO *SHUT UP*... AND SPOKE HIMSELF INTO *OBLIVION*.

THIS WAS *TRULY* A MASTERPIECE.

I ONLY WISH THAT WE'D HAD MORE *TIME* TOGETHER.

PITY, BUT AT LEAST NOW I KNOW THE VOICE-ACTIVATED *WINCH* NEEDS FINE-*TUNING* --

HEY... *SIDEBURN*-LAD!

-- ZOUNDS...

YOU MISSED.

SURE, I HADDA SNAP *BOTH* SETS OF ANKLES AND WRISTS JUST T' SHOW UP YER *PANSY* BEHIND... BUT I *BEAT* YOU...

... AN' I KEPT... ON... TALKING!

WHADDAYA THINK ABOUT DEM CHERRIES, *MAESTRO?*

I THINK, MISTER *DEADPOOL*, IT'S *IRONIC* THAT YOU BEGAN THE DAY DESPERATE TO PLAY THE *HERO*...

...AND ENDED IT ON ALL *FOURS*, REDUCED TO AN *ANIMAL*.

WUMP

...

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO TAKE THE *WIND* OUT OF A [redacted] *DEATH EXPERIENCE*... YOU KNOW THAT, *TRAPPY?*

NOW COME OVER HERE SO'S I CAN *BITE* OFF YER *KNEE-CAPS*.

I'M SURE THERE'S NO NEED TO POINT OUT THAT I COULD *KILL* YOU RIGHT NOW WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A *THOUGHT*...

BUT BEING QUITE THE *BAROQUE OPERATOR*, YOU DID, *ANYWAY*.

YOU'D BETTER GET *TO* IT IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S *GOOD* FOR YOU. IF YOU DON'T...

...I BET I'LL HAVE YOU *MESSING* YOURSELF LIKE A MONTH-OLD BRAT IN UNDER FIVE MINUTES.

I'LL TAKE THAT *WAGER*... FOR *ANOTHER* PLACE AND TIME...

...I HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT YOU THIS DAY.

AU REVOIR, MON AMI.

KLUDD

"OH. STILL *BREATHING*... THAT'S A PLEASANT *SURPRISE*..."

NOW COULD SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THE *HECK* JUST HAPPENED?

FEELS LIKE I JUST SURVIVED AN EPISODE OF *SEINFELD*... ONLY WITH *GUNS* AND STUFF *BLOWING* UP...

DEATHTRAP WAS AFTER *SOMETHING*... BUT WHAT?

WHERE'S THE *MESSAGE* IN THE STORY? WHAT'S THE *LESSON?*

DON'T TRUST KINDLY *OLD PEOPLE* IN NEED OF HELP?

DON'T *RUN* WITH SHARP *BEARS* IN THE HOUSE?

NO, WAIT...

OH DEARLORDTHAT SMARTS.

SKUCH!

WHAT'S THIS? A *NOTE?*

This is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

AH... A PERFECT *END* TO A PERFECT *DAY*...

AND THAT'S ONE TO *GROW* ON.

NEXT THE GREAT LAKES AVENGERS

DEADLINES

Dear *Deadlines*,

I am a concerned DEADPOOL fan writing to vent my frustration about issue #Minus 1. While my feelings in general have been very positive about this series, this most current issue was far and away from this trend. Yet, I fear to write these lines as it appears no negativity has yet been portrayed on the Deadlines page. This may be due to the fact that the first six issues of the book were excellent in their comic-bookish style and sharp 'Poolish wit, yet I must say that I have a couple of concerns.

The art in this issue was different and not up to the levels of style I've enjoyed in all previous Deadpool appearances. The plot was a bit preachy and had very little to do with Deadpool. The only mention you made of 'Pool's personality was when Zoe kept insinuating that he was a good person at heart. The book revealed nothing of interest to me and repeated many details of DP's life of which I was already aware.

While I have many complaints with this single issue, all the others have been to my satisfaction. They've been enjoyable to the extreme and I appreciate them more with each read. I only hope that you do not continue on the path started in Minus 1. It would be a great loss.

Ajay Mehra
Oakville, Ontario
CANADA

Thanks for writing in, Ajay! As you can see, we do indeed value and print negative letters. We've often mentioned that a negative letter that's printable is a lot different from an unconstructive negative letter. We do indeed receive negative mail, though it usually consists of "DEADPOOL sucks eggs, so cancel it" or something of that nature. Obviously, there's not a lot to work with there, so letters like that don't make their way into the letters page. By contrast, letters such as yours, which tell us what you don't like and why, are of much greater value to us. Ergo, you're now in print.

When we sat down to determine what our FLASHBACK story would be, we decided just showing some mission involving Wade Wilson, mercenary for hire, would be predictable and therefore inherently unsatisfying to all involved (including the readers). We also felt that Wade Wilson is something of a dweeb, and we're trying to take the emphasis off what he used to look like and place it on who he was, is, and someday hopes to be. Our FLASHBACK tale was designed to give you some insight into Wade before he became Deadpool, and drop some hints about some other aspects of this book's backstory which we will develop somewhere down the line. The story was something of a gamble, and, consequently, rather hit-or-miss. Some people loved the Steranko look of the art, the depth of the story, and that '70s coloring. There were folks like yourself who were less enamored with it. That's part of the risk involved in trying something different, and we'd always rather shoot high and risk missing instead of playing it safe.

Dear Deadlines,

First off, let me start by saying I'm enjoying DEADPOOL so far. But I do have a couple of complaints (minor quibbles, mind you): the artwork, although quality, is a little too cartoony for my tastes. Also, please don't start turning the 'Pool man into some sort of vigilante hero. Seems all of Marvel's best villains go soft as soon as they start appearing monthly somewhere. I think characters like these are the most fun when portrayed as the scum of the earth that they are at their worst. Make them the kinds of villains the readers love to hate. Also, this semi-romantic, buddy-buddy thing Wade has going with Siryn has always seemed ridiculous to me. Siryn is practically an X-Man, for pity's sake, and has more common sense than to hang out with a psycho-killer (that is what Deadpool is--or hasn't she noticed?). Cable and her teammates would have a fit if they ever found out about those two.

Another thing, in the response to Brandon Ehfurth's letter in issue #6, you implied that Deadpool and Wolverine shared some sort of bond or mutual respect thing because of their shared experiences in the Weapon X project. Didn't Deadpool run two swords through Wolverine a while back in Wolverine's own book? It seems like they should be bitter enemies to me; I'd love to see a rematch sometime in the near future. If you throw Sabretooth into the mix at some point, you'll really have something going!

Anyhow, I'm looking forward to DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97. How about 'Pool meeting Silver Sable or Luke Cage again--like they did in Silver Sable's own book and SECRET DEFENDERS?

So, until Deadpool signs a modeling contract with Revlon, Make Mine Marvel!

P.S. How about printing a non-e-mail, non-typewritten letter for a change!

Steve Bertoncello
Pontiac, MI

Okay, we're sensing a trend here, so let's deal with the negatives first. Each letters page we run is comprised of equal parts e-mail, typewritten mail, and hand-written mail. We're trying to get a good sampling across the board, so consider your criticism addressed! As for Wolverine and Deadpool, violence seems to be a regular part of their repertoire. It's nothing personal. We never meant to imply that they'd ever get along, but rather considering the lives they've lived, they both possess the capacity to put aside their differences if the need ever arose.

PAUL TUTRONE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

MATT IDELSON
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

Finally, one of the great qualities of both the X-Men and Siryn is that they try to find the best in people and steer them in the right direction rather than hold their past against them. Let's not forget that Rogue was once a big-time enemy of theirs, and Magneto (circa UNCANNY X-MEN #200) was able to put aside his differences long enough to work with the X-Men and even lead the New Mutants.

Dear *Deadlines,*

Hi, guys! I've been collecting comics for seven years. I stopped in '93 because I lost interest, but Onslaught got me interested in comics again. After that, I read SPIDER-MAN and DEADPOOL #1. Now for some questions:

1) In the last two pages of HEROES FOR HIRE #1, Iron Fist says they can hire on help as they need it. Might Deadpool be hired on in the future?

2) What are T-Ray's powers, if any?

3) How did Wade come up with the name Deadpool?

4) In DEADPOOL Minus 1, when Wade's employees came after his girlfriend and said he didn't fulfill his contract to kill the old woman, was Blind Al the old woman?

Well, keep up the great work, guys! Until Deadpool leaves Siryn for Blind Al, Make Mine Marvel!

Darrell Greer
Phoenix, AZ

Thanks, Darrell! We're glad that DEADPOOL was one of the books that brought you back to comics! As for your questions, here are a few responses:

1) DP probably won't be hired on in the future, since the kind of work Wade is usually hired for isn't the kind of work the Heroes are setting out to do...

2) Well, even we're not too sure what T-Ray's capabilities are, although he has been seen to light a few fires with only the power of his mind...

3) That's a secret, but there is a story behind it which we'll be getting to sometime in 1998.

4) Verrrrry perceptive, Darrell. Maybe Al was the old woman--maybe she wasn't. However, if you're even more perceptive, you'll find another clue in the scene where Zoe and Dixon survey the scene of Wade's failed mission...

Dear *Deadlines,*

I just had to write and say that DEADPOOL is the funniest comic I have ever had the pleasure of reading. The sheer cruelty of this character makes for some truly hilarious moments. Mr. Kelly's writing capitalizes on this dark humor perfectly. The visual jokes are just too cool for words (just how did Wade get the Scarlet Spider's sweatshirt?). Mr. McGuinness' art is very conducive to this comedy.

About issue #6, though I have just one question. How exactly did the Vamp return from the dead? The last anyone heard of her, she was declared dead on a news broadcast in CAPTAIN AMERICA #320. She was shot dead by Scourge and we saw her bullet-riddled body on page 5 of that same issue. What happened???

Darrell Walker, Q.N.S.
Jacksonville, FL

Wow, another Darrell, huh? Glad you like the dark humor of the book. Hope you can handle its getting a little darker ('cause it's gonna!). As for your Vamp comments, Deadpool wanted to handle this one himself....

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. She was 'declared' dead. You 'saw' her bullet-riddled body. Y'know what? You probably 'saw' Jean Grey die on the moon, too. But ya wanna know what else? I was there, Vamp was there. She turned into a big, hairy guy with a humongous head right in front o' me." Well, there ya go. Someday, the Vamp will return and her miraculous survival will be explained once and for all.

Dear *Deadlines,*

I just came up with a super idea for a DEADPOOL story, and I've decided to share it with you! Here goes!

You guys should make Deadpool face the new Marvel team, Heroes For Hire! You could say that the Hulk still remembers when Deadpool stuck a pole in him (issue #4), so he decides to get revenge and brings his new friends and teammates--Heroes For Hire--to help! It would be awesome!

Now for some questions:

1) Is Typhoid Mary going to be a full-time character or not?

2) Will you ever guest-star Spider-Man in your comic book?

3) Will we ever see Siryn again in these pages? Will Deadpool ever be seen in the pages of X-Force?

4) Why isn't Ed McGuinness drawing DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97?

Keep up the great work!

Donald Murphy
Glenwood, IL

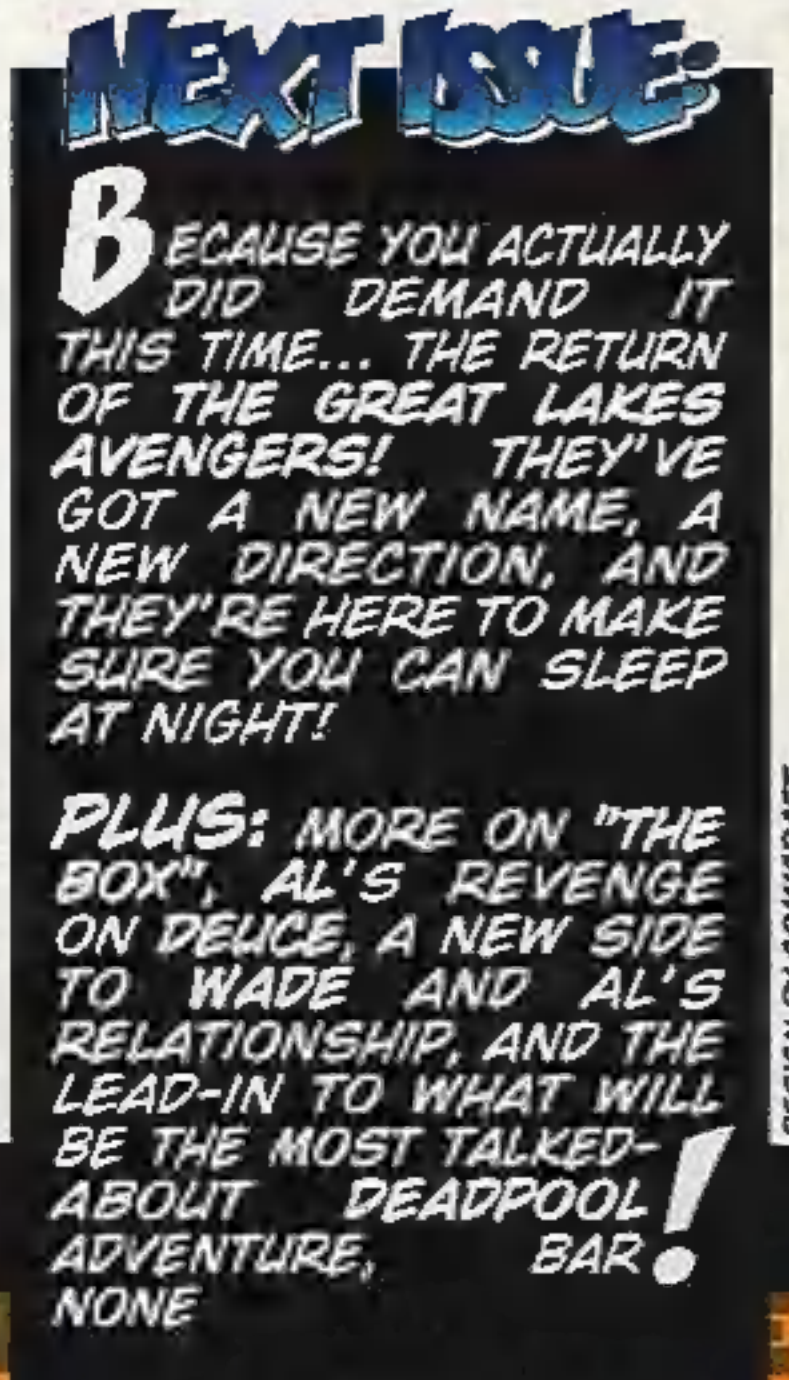
Great idea for a story, Donald, but nothing like that's planned to happen anytime soon. Besides, Hulkie kinda trashed the Deadpool office the last time he guest-starred, and we still haven't cleaned up the mess! Now, here are a few answers:

1) Typhoid isn't going to be as permanent a character as Weasel or Blind Al, but she'll definitely be around for a while, wreaking all kinds of havoc....

2) Spidey, huh? Well, sort of. Stayed tuned for DEADPOOL #11 when Deadpool goes Gump!

3) Oh, Siryn'll be around again, although when she sees what Wade's become, she might not want to stay. And there are no plans for 'Pool to show up in X-FORCE right now.

4) By now, DD/DP '97 is on sale, and you've already checked out the awesome artwork of Bernard Chang and Jon Holdredge! We think they did a spectacular job! Besides, you wouldn't want us to try and get two books out of Ed at one time, would you? Jeez, give the guy a break....


NEXT ISSUE:
BECAUSE YOU ACTUALLY DID DEMAND IT THIS TIME... THE RETURN OF THE GREAT LAKES AVENGERS! THEY'VE GOT A NEW NAME, A NEW DIRECTION, AND THEY'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT!
PLUS: MORE ON "THE BOX", AL'S REVENGE ON DEUCE, A NEW SIDE TO WADE AND AL'S RELATIONSHIP, AND THE LEAD-IN TO WHAT WILL BE THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT DEADPOOL ADVENTURE, BAR NONE!
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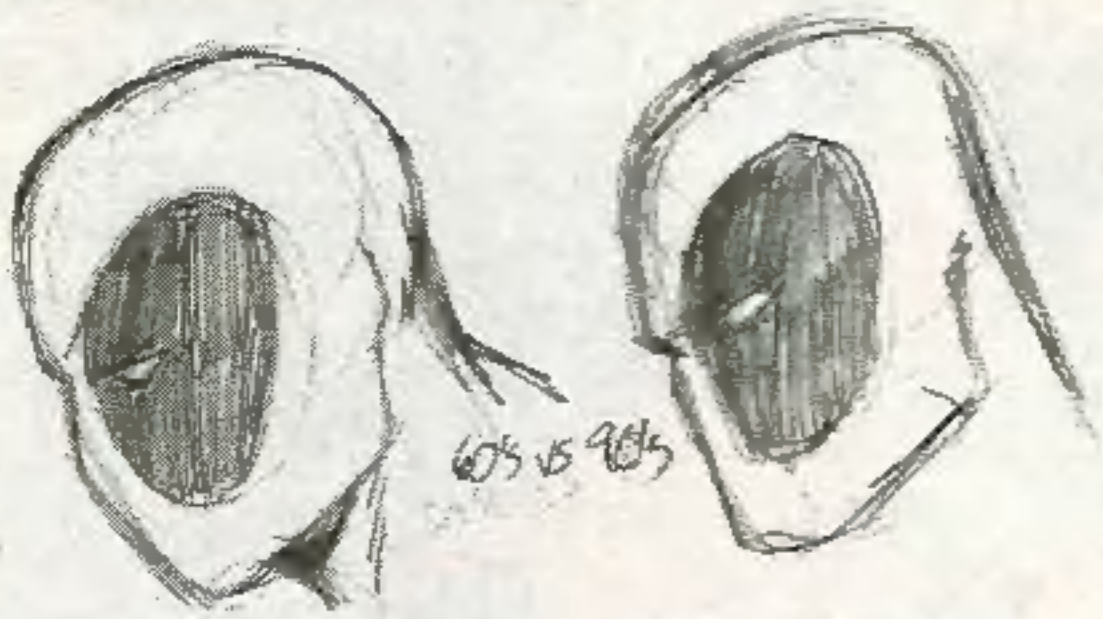
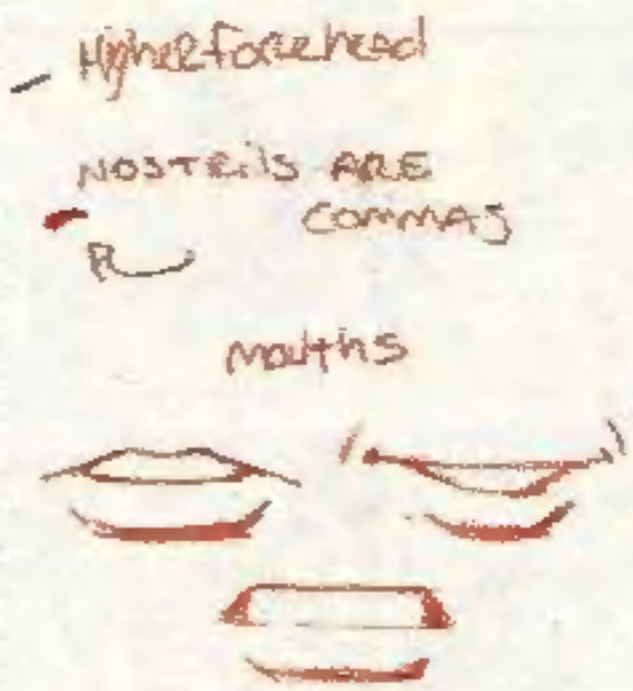


Hola, kids! Welcome to another installment of "Behind the Scenes"! This month's topic: our upcoming, 64-page, 11th issue extravaganza! Since everyone and their brother has been clamoring for a Spidey/Deadpool story, we figured it was time to deliver. But if there's one thing you folks have no doubt learned by now, it's that when it comes to DEADPOOL, expect the unexpected (and thank you, New Universe)!



We're going to be trying something which, to the best of our knowledge, has never been attempted: Gumping! Deadpool will be taking a short jaunt back in time, where he'll hang out and interact with some of your favorite Spidey characters from the past! (We'll be taking a sneak-peek at how that's done next month.)

What you see here is some of the conceptual sketchwork being done by the man of the hour, Pete Woods. Pete, who will be handling the penciling chores for our 49-page tale, spent long hours at the drafting table trying to capture the essence of that which is John Romita, Sr.!

The sketches at the top of the page are Pete's early attempts at drawing a certain Mr. Parker. So far, so good! (Although the shot at the upper right of the next page is slightly un-Pete-like, wouldn't you say?)

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Line Up Page 9

BEHIND THE SCENES

Notice anything special about these sketches? How 'bout the fact that Blind Al has been drawn with her hair in a bun! Plot point alert! Do you think Al will be making the trip? (So much for not messing with the timestream!)

Here's another giveaway. Pete captures the magic that is young Weasel! Indeed, this earlier form of our favorite sidekick will be playing a pivotal role in the events of this story, and at last gaining his moment in the sun. (Note to historians: Weasel is based loosely on Pete Woods' dad!)

The shot below shows our favorite nephew very much out of character, threatening a certain supporting player we all know and love. (And if this doesn't hint at a major plot point, nothing will!)

And so, that's our little hint at things-to-come for today! Thanks for joining us. See you next month when the term "Gump" will take on a whole new meaning!

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